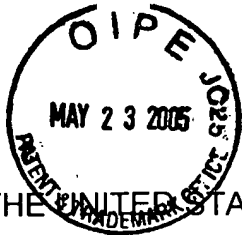


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Akihiko MARUYAMA et al.

Group Art Unit: 1634

Appln. No. : 10/049,626
(National Stage of PCT/JP00/05711)

Examiner: Frank W. Lu

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For : METHOD OF DETECTING AND QUANTITATING MICROORGANISM
HAVING SPECIFIC FUNCTION AND ITS GENE FROM NATURAL
ENVIRONMENT, NOVEL 16SrRNA GENE DATA AND PROBES

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Amendment
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria VA 22314

Sir:

Please extend the time for response to the Official Office Action dated March 21, 2005 by one month, from April 21, 2005 to and including May 23, 2005 (May 21, 2005 falling on a Saturday). A check is attached which includes the fee of \$120.00.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to credit any overpayment or charge any additional fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.


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May 23, 2005
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